UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/007,193	12/04/2001	Jeffery Alan Smith	60027.0063US01/BS 01213	3553

39262 7590 11/25/2005

BELLSOUTH CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 2903
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903

EXAMINER	
PAN, JOSEPH T	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2135	

DATE MAILED: 11/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/007,193	SMITH, JEFFERY ALAN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Joseph Pan	2135	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *06 September 2005*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1,3-12,14,15 and 21-27* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1,3-12,14,15 and 21-27* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *04 December 2001* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1, 3, 8, 12, 14 and 15 have been amended. Claims 2, 13, and 16-20 have been canceled. New claims 21-27 have been added. Claims 1, 3-12, 14-15, and 21-27 remain in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 3-4, 12, 14-15, 21, 23-24, 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sanschagrin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,295,540).

Referring to claims 1, 12:

Sanschagrin et al. teach:

A method of providing read-only access to network element configuration, comprising:

Receiving a request to access said configuration data for said network element, the request comprising a target identification code corresponding to the network element (see figure 5; column 7, lines 35-39; and column 5, line 21 of Sanschagrin et al.);

Initiating a communication session with said network element (see column 3, lines 5-8 of Sanschagrin et al.);

Receiving said configuration data from said network element (see column 3, lines 8-10 of Sanschagrin et al.); and

Transmitting said configuration data as a response to said request in the format selected, e.g. read-only format (see column 7, lines 47-51 of Sanschagrin et al.).

Referring to claims 3, 14:

Sanschagrin et al. teach the claimed subject matter: a method for providing read-only access to network element configuration data (see claim 1 above). Sanschagrin et al. further disclose that administrative features including security and logon procedure will facilitate a user performing the query request (see column 7, lines 39-42, and lines 62-65 of Sanschagrin et al.).

Referring to claim 4:

Sanschagrin et al. teach the claimed subject matter: a method for providing read-only access to network element configuration data (see claim 1 above). Sanschagrin et al. further disclose that the method further comprising:

Retrieving previously stored configuration data associated with said network element form a database (see column 3, lines 5-10 of Sanschagrin et al.);

Comparing said previously stored configuration data to said configuration data received from said network element (see column 3, lines 10-12 Sanschagrin et al.);

Determine whether said previously stored configuration data and said configuration data received from the network element are identical (see column 3, lines 10-12 Sanschagrin et al.);

In response to determining that said previously stored configuration data and said configuration data received from said network element are not identical, storing said configuration data received from said network element in said database (see figure 4, element 13-2; and column 7, lines 8-10 of Sanschagrin et al.).

Referring to claim 15:

Sanschagrin et al. teach:

A computer-readable medium comprising computer executable instructions which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to:

Initiate a communication session with a network element in response to a request to access configuration data for said network element, the request comprising a target identification code corresponding to the network element (see figure 5; column 7, lines 35-39; and column 5, line 21 of Sanschagrin et al.), wherein said request further comprises a user login and password, and wherein said computer executable instructions are further operative to cause the computer to generate an error message in response to said request if said use login and password are not authorized to access said configuration data (see column 7, lines 62-63 of Sanschagrin et al.);

Receive said configuration data from said network element (see see column 3, lines 8-10 of Sanschagrin et al.);

Transmit said configuration data in a read-only format as a response to said request (see column 7, lines 47-51 of Sanschagrin et al.);

Retrieving previously stored configuration data associated with said network element form a database (see column 3, lines 5-10 of Sanschagrin et al.);

Comparing said previously stored configuration data to said configuration data received from said network element (see column 3, lines 10-12 Sanschagrin et al.);

Determine whether said previously stored configuration data and said configuration data received from the network element are identical (see column 3, lines 10-12 Sanschagrin et al.);

In response to determining that said previously stored configuration data and said configuration data received from said network element are not identical, storing said configuration data received from said network element in said database (see figure 4, element 13-2; and column 7, lines 8-10 of Sanschagrin et al.).

Referring to claims 21, 23:

Sanschagrin et al. teach the claimed subject matter: a method for providing read-only access to network element configuration data (see claim 1 above). Sanschagrin et al. further disclose that the TIRKS system supports the full range of transmission technologies, such as SONET, including self-healing rings and other sophisticated SONET configurations, European digital hierarchy standards (SDH),

digital circuitry hierarchy (DS0, DS1, DS3), and analog voice circuits (see column 1, lines 26-30 of Sanschagrin et al.).

Referring to claims 24, 26:

Sanschagrin et al. teach the claimed subject matter: a method for providing read-only access to network element configuration data (see claim 1 above). Sanschagrin et al. further disclose the information regarding the installation of the network element and the information regarding the existence of the network element (see column 1, lines 32-39; and column 7, lines 62-65 of Sanschagrin et al.).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 5-11, 22, 25, 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sanschagrin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,295,540), further in view of Branton, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,870,558).

Referring to claims 5:

i. Sanschagrin et al. teach the claimed subject matter: a method for providing read-only access to network element configuration data. However, Sanschagrin et al. do not specifically mention that the request is received at a web site.

ii. Branton, Jr. et al. disclose a system for effectively retrieving and managing network data, wherein a web server interfaces between the company-wide

intranet and the network management system (see column 4, lines 4-6 of Branton, Jr. et al.).

iii. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Branton, Jr. et al. into the system of Sanschagrin et al. to provide a web server interface for effectively retrieving and managing network data.

iv. The ordinary skilled person would have been motivated to have applied the teaching of Branton, Jr. et al. into the system of Sanschagrin et al. to provide a web server interface, so that any authorized user can access the network management system via a standard web browser program that communicates with the web server via Hyper-Text Transfer Protocol (HTTP). Such programs are generally available for a wide variety of computer platforms (see column 4, lines 6-10 of Branton, Jr. et al.).

Referring to claims 6, 11:

Sanschagrin et al. and Branton, Jr. et al. teach the claimed subject matter: a method for providing read-only access to network element configuration data (see claim 1 above). Branton, Jr. et al. further disclose that the web server resides in intranet (see column 4, lines 4-6 of Branton, Jr. et al.).

Referring to claim 7:

Sanschagrin et al. and Branton, Jr. et al. teach the claimed subject matter: a method for providing read-only access to network element configuration data (see claim 1 above). Branton, Jr. et al. further disclose that the network element is located on an optical network (see column 2, lines 18-24 of Branton, Jr. et al.).

Referring to claim 8:

i. Sanschagrin et al. teach:

A system for providing read-only access to network element configuration data, comprising:

A network element operative to store configuration data describing the current configuration state of the network element, and further operative to provide said

configuration data in response to requests for said data (see column 1, lines 16-19 of Sanschagrin et al.);

A server computer at which a request may be received to view said configuration data (see column 3, lines 4-5 of Sanschagrin et al.); to retrieve said configuration data from said network element in response to said request (see column 3, lines 5-10 of Sanschagrin et al.); and to provide said configuration data in read-only format in response to said request (see column 7, lines 47-51 of Sanschagrin et al.), the request comprising a target identification code corresponding to the network element (see figure 5; column 7, lines 35-39; and column 5, line 21 of Sanschagrin et al.);

ii. Sanschagrin et al. teach the claimed subject matter: a method for providing read-only access to network element configuration data. However, Sanschagrin et al. do not specifically mention that the network element is located on an optical network, and that the server provides a web site interface. On the other hand, Branton, Jr. et al. disclose a system wherein a web server interfaces between the company-wide intranet and the network management system (see column 4, lines 4-6 of Branton, Jr. et al.). Branton, Jr. et al. further disclose that the network element is located on an optical network (see column 2, lines 18-24 of Branton, Jr. et al.).

iii. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Branton, Jr. et al. into the system of Sanschagrin et al. to provide a web server interface for effectively retrieving and managing network data, and to use an optical network in the system.

iv. The ordinary skilled person would have been motivated to have applied the teaching of Branton, Jr. et al. into the system of Sanschagrin et al. to provide a web server interface, so that any authorized user can access the network management system via a standard web browser program that communicates with the web server via Hyper-Text Transfer Protocol (HTTP). Such programs are generally available for a wide variety of computer platforms (see column 4, lines 6-10 of Branton, Jr. et al.). The ordinary skilled person would have been motivated to have applied the teaching of Branton, Jr. et al. into the system of Sanschagrin et al. to use an optical network in the system, because it is well known to those skilled in the art of fiber optical

networks that optical network (e.g. SONET) is designed to carry large volume of traffic over relatively long distance on fiber optical cable.

Referring to claim 9:

Sanschagrin et al. and Branton, Jr. et al. teach the claimed subject matter: a system for providing read-only access to network element configuration data (see claim 8 above). Sanschagrin et al. further disclose that administrative features including security and logon procedure will facilitate a user performing the query request (see column 7, lines 39-42, and lines 62-65 of Sanschagrin et al.).

Referring to claim 10:

Sanschagrin et al. and Branton, Jr. et al. teach the claimed subject matter: a system for providing read-only access to network element configuration data (see claim 8 above). Sanschagrin et al. further disclose that the system further comprising:

Retrieving previously stored configuration data associated with said network element form a database (see column 3, lines 4-10 of Sanschagrin et al.);

Comparing said previously stored configuration data to said configuration data received from said network element (see column 3, lines 10-12 Sanschagrin et al.);

Determine whether said previously stored configuration data and said configuration data received from the network element are identical (see column 3, lines 10-12 Sanschagrin et al.);

In response to determining that said previously stored configuration data and said configuration data received from said network element are not identical, storing said configuration data received from said network element in said database (see column 7, lines 8-10 Sanschagrin et al.).

Referring to claim 22:

Sanschagrin et al. and Branton, Jr. et al. teach the claimed subject matter: a system for providing read-only access to network element configuration data (see claim 8 above). Sanschagrin et al. further disclose that the system further disclose that the TIRKS system supports the full range of transmission technologies, such as SONET, including self-healing rings and other sophisticated SONET configurations,

European digital hierarchy standards (SDH), digital circuitry hierarchy (DS0, DS1, DS3), and analog voice circuits (see column 1, lines 26-30 of Sanschagrin et al.).

Referring to claim 25:

Sanschagrin et al. and Branton, Jr. et al. teach the claimed subject matter: a system for providing read-only access to network element configuration data (see claim 8 above). Sanschagrin et al. further disclose the information regarding the installation of the network element and the information regarding the existence of the network element (see column 1, lines 32-39; and column 7, lines 62-65 of Sanschagrin et al.).

Referring to claim 27:

Sanschagrin et al. and Branton, Jr. et al. teach the claimed subject matter: a system for providing read-only access to network element configuration data (see claim 8 above). Sanschagrin et al. further disclose the optical network (see column 1, lines 26-30 of Sanschagrin et al.), the information regarding the installation of the network element and the information regarding the existence of the network element (see column 1, lines 32-39; and column 7, lines 62-65 of Sanschagrin et al.).

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed on September 6, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that:

"Sanschagrin does not anticipate the claimed invention because Sanschagrin at least does not disclose "the request comprising a target identification code corresponding to the network element", as recited by amended Claim 1"

Examiner maintains that:

Sanschagrin et al. disclose that as FIG. 5 shows functionality of GUI 16. The main functions of the GUI are initiating a **network element** comparison query,

saving a query for a later use, reviewing the output and providing **network element** comparison reports, administrative features and on-line help. An administrative application program, such as Windows Administration Application 29 can facilitate a user performing these functions through terminal 17 (see figure 5; column 7, lines 35-39). Sanschagrin et al. further disclose using the **network element ID** (i.e. 'target identification code corresponding to the network element' is the network element ID) with the system (see column 5, line 21 of Sanschagrin et al.).

Conclusion

7, Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office Action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph Pan whose telephone number is 571-272-5987.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Vu can be reached at 571-272-3859. The fax and phone

numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2100.

Joseph Pan
October 31, 2005

KIM VU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100